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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
9 June-3 July 2008
Agenda item 7
Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, together with the required documentation.

2. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

3. The draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the present session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:

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(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/269 and 62/224);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Evaluations.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolution 62/224)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (General Assembly resolutions 61/235 and 62/224 and document E/AC.51/2008/L.4/Add.1)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on thematic evaluation of United Nations coordinating bodies (General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of United Nations support for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing countries and Africa; and addendum: in-depth evaluation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

4. Coordination questions:

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for 2008/09

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.

7. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session.

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 30 April 2008 and its substantive session from 9 June to 3 July 2008. It held a total of __ meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-eighth session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2008/L.2), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267, containing the information that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit available for consideration by the Committee at its forty-eighth session.

Programme of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2008/L.1), listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 June, the Committee approved its tentative and provisional programme of work for the session, with the understanding that

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adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session.

6. Following the 2nd meeting, an informal briefing on organizational issues of the session was given by the Secretary of the Committee and an informal briefing on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 was given by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division. In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 152, 153 and 159 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16), as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/224, the Committee devoted its meeting on the morning of 16 June to the issue of part one: plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, with high-level participation, and its meeting in the afternoon of 16 June to an informal dialogue on coordination issues with the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Ren Yisheng (China) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-eighth session.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-eighth session: Vice-Chairmen: Hendrik O. van der Westhuizen (South Africa), Yuliana Zhivkova Georgieva (Bulgaria) and Samer S. Alouan Kanafani (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela); and Rapporteur: Stefania Rosini (Italy).

9. The members of the Bureau for the forty-eighth session of the Committee are:

Chairman:
Ren Yisheng (China)

Vice-Chairmen:
Hendrik O. van der Westhuizen (South Africa)
Yuliana Zhivkova Georgieva (Bulgaria)
Samer S. Alouan Kanafani (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Rapporteur:
Stefania Rosini (Italy)

C. Attendance

10. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina	Israel
Armenia	Italy
Bangladesh	Jamaica
Belarus	Kenya
Benin	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Brazil	Niger
Bulgaria	Pakistan
Central African Republic	Portugal
China	Republic of Korea
Comoros	Russian Federation
Cuba	Senegal
France	South Africa
Haiti	Switzerland
India	Uruguay
Indonesia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Zimbabwe

11. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Angola	Poland
Australia	Singapore
Austria	Slovenia
Colombia	Spain
Croatia	Syrian Arab Republic
Dominican Republic	Uganda
Egypt	Ukraine
Germany	United Arab Emirates
Japan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mexico	United States of America
Namibia	Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Nigeria	Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations
Panama	

12. The following funds and programmes were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Population Fund

World Food Programme

13. Also present at the session were the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser on Africa; the Under-Secretary-General for Management; the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Controller; the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator; the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit; and senior officials of the Secretariat.

14. The following programmes and/or parts of programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 were discussed by videoconference: programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space; and programme 19, Human rights.

D. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-eighth session is set out in annex II to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

16. At its 20th meeting, on 3 July, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-eighth session (E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and Add.1- _).

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at its forty-eighth session

A/63/6 (Part one)	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: part one: plan outline
	Part two: biennial programme plan
A/63/6 (Prog. 1)	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/63/6 (Prog. 2)	Political affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 3)	Disarmament
A/63/6 (Prog. 4)	Peacekeeping operations
A/63/6 (Prog. 5)	Peaceful uses of outer space
A/63/6 (Prog. 6)	Legal affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 7)	Economic and social affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 8)	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/63/6 (Prog. 9)	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/63/6 (Prog. 10)	Trade and development
A/63/6 (Prog. 11)	Environment
A/63/6 (Prog. 12)	Human settlements
A/63/6 (Prog. 13)	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/63/6 (Prog. 14)	Economic and social development in Africa
A/63/6 (Prog. 15)	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/63/6 (Prog. 16)	Economic development in Europe
A/63/6 (Prog. 17) and Corr.1	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/63/6 (Prog. 18) and Corr.1	Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/63/6 (Prog. 19)	Human rights
A/63/6 (Prog. 20)	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

A/63/6 (Prog. 21)	Palestine refugees
A/63/6 (Prog. 22)	Humanitarian assistance
A/63/6 (Prog. 23) and Corr.1	Public information
A/63/6 (Prog. 24)	Management and support services
A/63/6 (Prog. 25)	Internal oversight
A/63/6 (Prog. 26)	Jointly financed activities
A/63/6 (Prog. 27)	Safety and security
A/63/70	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007
E/2008/58	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2008/1	Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2008/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support
E/AC.51/2008/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
E/AC.51/2008/4 and Add.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration
E/AC.51/2008/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

E/AC.51/2008/6	Letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2008/L.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2008/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
E/AC.51/2008/L.3	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and Add.1-__ and Add.4/Corr.1	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session
E/AC.51/2008/CRP.1 and Add.1-2	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: review of part two: biennial programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
E/AC.51/2008/INF/1	List of delegations

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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(Item 3 (c))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support (E/AC.51/2008/2).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of OIOS and several commended its quality. Delegations also expressed their general agreement with the conclusions contained in the report and a number of delegations expressed their support for the recommendations.

4. Delegations agreed that special political missions had an important role to play in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts of the United Nations. Some noted with concern the observations made by OIOS that the role of special political missions, their part in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts of the

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United Nations, and their partnerships with other parts of the United Nations system were ill-defined. Delegations also expressed concern that there was insufficient coordination between special political missions and other United Nations actors.

5. Delegations noted the OIOS finding that it was not easy to gauge whether special political missions were implementing their mandates effectively. That difficulty was compounded by the lack of systematic performance information and a lack of evaluation of the impact of the work of special political missions in prior reporting periods. Delegations agreed that there needed to be more scrutiny of the performance of special political missions, the relevance of their activities and of whether they were producing the desired results.

6. Some delegations noted the need for improved strategic planning and budgeting for special political missions and a question was raised regarding the viability of missions producing exit strategies as part of their strategic planning and budgeting. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services noted that there must be more attention paid to developing mission exit strategies that helped define and plan for the eventual cessation of the mission. A few delegations also noted with concern that recruitment processes were not able to provide staff with the skills appropriate to the special political missions within the required time frame as well as the low representation of women staff within missions and that many staff surveyed believed the amount of training they received was not sufficient.

7. Questions were raised about the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs in addressing the findings contained in the report and about what initiatives were under way within the Department to implement the recommendations. The representative of the Department responded that some steps had already been taken to implement the recommendations and that implementation of the Secretary-General's proposals for the strengthening of the Department would also address some of the findings contained within the report.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended to the General Assembly to endorse recommendations 1 to 4 contained in the report (E/AC.51/2008/2), subject to the provisions below.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly amend recommendation 1 (para. 55) as follows: after the words "should develop", insert "within its mandate".**

10. **In that regard, the Committee noted in particular the need to improve the overall management of the special political missions as well as (a) the intended overall role and goals of the mission, (b) the expected activities of the mission and how those activities would contribute to the achievement of the mission mandate, (c) the expected time required to achieve the mandate and (d) indicators or criteria that might be used in measuring mission progress and in determining whether the mission could be said to have accomplished its mandate.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that special political missions and other local actors strengthen their cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the expected outcomes and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the United Nations.**

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (c))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/AC.51/2008/3).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and the Deputy Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive review by OIOS of the implementation of recommendations emanating from its in-depth

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evaluation of UN-Habitat. A number of delegations expressed agreement with the conclusions contained in the triennial review.

4. Several delegations commended UN-Habitat for the effective manner in which it had implemented the OIOS recommendations. As a result, UN-Habitat was more efficient, had improved coordination with partners and made better use of limited resources. The work of UN-Habitat had also played an important role in increasing the visibility of slum upgrading and human settlements, as well as in bringing together stakeholders on these issues. A few delegations commented that UN-Habitat should continue to build on its achievements and make further progress towards implementing the recommendations. Several delegations raised questions on the implications for UN-Habitat of implementing the recommendations. The representative of UN-Habitat stated that reform was an ongoing process and that UN-Habitat was indeed continuing to build on its achievements.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.**

6. **The Committee commended UN-Habitat for implementing the recommendations made by OIOS and for its efforts in improving overall programme efficiencies and effectiveness.**

7. **The Committee further commended UN-Habitat for aligning its activities with the United Nations in all relevant areas.**

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Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(*Item 3 (c)*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2008/4).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination introduced the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (see E/AC.51/2008/4/Add.1). The representative of the Chief Executives Board responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

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Discussion

3. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed their overall approval of its conclusions. Support was expressed for the need to enhance inter-agency interaction and coordination.

4. Questions were raised regarding why the recommendation of OIOS on the establishment of a working group to consider the roles of the inter-agency coordination bodies had not been carried out, and why the OIOS recommendation on incorporating coordination and collaboration into performance appraisal systems in departments of the Secretariat had not been implemented. The representative of the CEB secretariat responded, noting that pursuant to the recent review of the functions and structure of the Board, including its relationships with other inter-agency coordination bodies, and the subsequent decision to integrate the United Nations Development Group into its inter-agency framework in order to enhance normative and operational links within the system, it had been determined that there was no further need for an additional working group. Regarding performance appraisal systems, he noted that, owing to the diverse nature of work conducted by Departments of the Secretariat, the task of standardizing performance appraisal was not an easy one. However, the Human Resources Network of the High-level Committee on Management had put this item in its agenda for future sessions, and it was hoped that the issue would be addressed within the context of the Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices in the United Nations system (CEB/2008/HLCM/11).

Conclusions and recommendations

5. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to continue his efforts to ensure enhanced collaboration among inter-agency coordinating bodies, in respect of poverty eradication within the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in the light of the results already achieved by the Board.**

6. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue implementing the remaining recommendations.**

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.